

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A device for use in removing ~~the~~a meat of a piece of fruit from ~~the~~a skin of the piece of fruit after the meat has been exposed, the device comprising:

a handle portion adapted to allow an individual to manually manipulate the device using one hand; and

a working portion having an elongated blade and a pair of lateral extensions coupling opposing ends of the elongated blade to the handle portion, the elongated blade having a cross-sectional shape adapted to facilitate movement of the elongated blade through the meat of the fruit, the working portion having a resting configuration in which the elongated blade has a first radius of curvature, at least one of the lateral extensions being manipulable under a direct manual force during use to deform the working portion from the resting configuration to a displaced configuration in which the elongated blade has a second radius of curvature, one of the lateral extensions being sufficiently proximate the other of the lateral extensions to allow the individual to adjust selectively conform the curvature of the elongated blade ~~to conform it to the~~ curvature of the skin, using the one hand, before and as the elongated blade moves through the meat of the fruit, the working portion comprising a resilient material such that, when the manual force is removed from the at least one lateral extension, the working portion will automatically return to the resting configuration.

2. (Original) The device of claim 1 wherein the handle portion is unitary with the working portion.

3. (Original) The device of claim 1 wherein the handle portion is unitary with the working portion, and wherein the device comprises a polymeric material.

4. (Original) The device of claim 1 wherein the handle portion is unitary with the working portion, and wherein the device comprises a resilient polymeric material.

5. (Original) The device of claim 1 wherein the elongated blade is unitary with the lateral extensions.

6. (Original) The device of claim 1 wherein the elongated blade and the lateral extensions have a constant cross-sectional shape.

7. (Original) The device of claim 1 wherein the elongated blade has a cross-sectional shape elongated in a cutting direction.

8. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 1 wherein the elongated blade has a cross-sectional shape elongated in a cutting direction and terminating in opposing edges, at least one edge being pointed.

9. (Original) The device of claim 1 wherein the elongated blade has a cross-sectional shape comprising two opposing surfaces terminating in opposing edges, at least one of the opposing surfaces being curved.

10. (Original) The device of claim 1 wherein the elongated blade is formed to maintain the first radius of curvature when unstressed.

11. (Original) The device of claim 1 wherein the elongated blade comprises a resilient material.

12. (Original) The device of claim 1 wherein at least one of the lateral extensions comprises a resilient material.

13. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 1 wherein both of the lateral extensions comprises a resilient material.

14. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 1 wherein at least one of the lateral extensions is bendable under a manual force during use to deform the working portion from the resting configuration to the displaced ~~stressed~~ configuration.

15. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 1 wherein at least one of the lateral extensions is bendable under a manual force during use to deform the working portion from the resting configuration to the stressed configuration and is sufficiently resilient to automatically return the working portion to the displaced ~~resting~~ configuration.

16. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 1 wherein at least one of the lateral extensions is bendable under a manual force during use to deform the working portion from the resting configuration to the displaced ~~stressed~~ configuration, and wherein the elongated blade is sufficiently resilient to automatically return the working portion to the resting configuration.

17. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 1 wherein at least one of the lateral extensions is bendable under a manual force during use to deform the working portion from the resting configuration to the displaced ~~stressed~~ configuration, and wherein the elongated blade and the at least one lateral extension are sufficiently resilient to automatically return the working portion to the resting configuration.

18. (Original) The device of claim 1 wherein the second radius of curvature is different than the first radius of curvature.

19. (Original) The device of claim 1 wherein the second radius of curvature is smaller than the first radius of curvature.

20. (Currently Amended) ~~The device of claim 1, further comprising~~ A device for use in removing a meat of a piece of fruit from a skin of the piece of fruit after the meat has been exposed, the device comprising:

a handle portion adapted to allow an individual to manually manipulate the device;

a working portion having an elongated blade and a pair of lateral extensions coupling opposing ends of the elongated blade to the handle portion, the elongated blade having a cross-sectional shape adapted to facilitate movement of the elongated blade through the meat of the fruit, the working portion having a resting configuration in which the elongated blade has a first radius of curvature, at least one of the lateral extensions being manipulable under a manual force during use to deform the working portion from the resting configuration to a displaced configuration in which the elongated blade has a second radius of curvature, to allow the individual to selectively conform the curvature of the elongated blade to the curvature of the skin before and as the elongated blade moves through the meat of the fruit, the working portion comprising a resilient material such that, when the manual force is removed from the at least one lateral extension, the working portion will automatically return to the resting configuration; and

a plurality of spaced apart teeth coupled to the elongated blade.

21. (Currently Amended) The device of claim ~~1~~20; ~~further comprising~~
~~awherein the~~ plurality of spaced apart teeth ~~coupled to the elongated blade and projecting~~
transversely from the blade.

22. (Currently Amended) The device of claim ~~1~~20; ~~further comprising~~
~~awherein the~~ plurality of spaced apart teeth ~~coupled to the elongated blade and projecting~~
transversely inward from the blade.

23. (Currently Amended) A method for removing ~~the~~a meat of a piece of ~~avocado~~fruit from ~~the~~a skin of the piece of fruit after the meat of the fruit has been exposed, the method comprising:

providing a device having a handle portion, a working portion and a coupling portion positioned between the handle portion and the working portion;

retaining the handle portion of the device with one hand and the piece of fruit with the other hand; and

moving the working portion of the device in a cutting direction through the meat of the piece of fruit proximate the skin while simultaneously squeezing the coupling portion laterally with respect to the cutting direction to deform the working portion to conform to the shape of the skin of the piece of fruit as it moves through the meat.